12.

THE ORDER OF CONFIRMATION:

WITH

INSTRUCTIONS

FOR THEM THAT COME TO BE

CONFIRMED.

AND

PRAYERS

TO BE USED BEFORE AND AFTER

CONFIRMATION.

Then laid they their Hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. Acts viii. 17.

THE FIFTH EDITION.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR F. AND C. RIVINGTON,
BOOKSELLERS TO THE
SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE,
NO. 62, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD;
By Bye and Law, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.

1800.

INTRODUCTION.

CONFIRMATION is the ſolemn laying on of the Hands of the Biſhop upon ſuch as have been baptized, and are come to Years of Diſcretion. We do not ſay that the Biſhop gives the Holy Ghoſt, nor did the Apoſtles themſelves do it by their Impoſition of Hands. They laid on their Hands, and GOD gave the Holy Spirit to thoſe on whom they laid them. And we piouſly preſume, that by the fervent Prayers of the Biſhop and the Church, thoſe on whom he lays his Hands, ſhall alſo receive the Holy Ghoſt, if they do but worthily prepare themſelves for it.

The Perſons to be confirmed take upon themſelves, in the Preſence of GOD and the Congregation, the Vows and Promiſes which were made in their Names, by their Godfathers and Godmothers, when they were admitted Members of CHRIST's Church, and from thenceforward are bound to perform them.

Perſons to be confirmed, ſhould be of a proper Age to underſtand the Nature of their Baptiſmal Vow, and capable of making a prudent and firm Reſolution of obſerving it.

The ORDER of CONFIRMATION, or Laying on of Hands upon thoſe that are baptized, and come to Years of Diſcretion.

¶ *Upon the Day appointed, all that are to be then confirmed, being placed and ſtanding in Order before the Biſhop; he (or ſome other Miniſter appointed by him) ſhall read this Preface following.*

TO the End that Confirmation may be miniſtred to the more edifying of ſuch as ſhall receive it, the Church hath thought good to order, That none hereafter ſhall be

confirmed, but ſuch as can ſay the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the Ten Commandments; and can alſo anſwer to ſuch other Queſtions, as in the ſhort Catechiſm are contained: which Order is very convenient to be obſerved; to the End that Children being now come to the Years of Diſcretion, and having learned what their Godfathers and Godmothers promiſed for them in Baptiſm, they may themſelves with their own Mouth and Conſent, openly before the Church, ratify and confirm the ſame; and alſo promiſe that by the Grace of God, they will evermore endeavour themſelves faithfully to obſerve ſuch Things as they, by their own Confeſſion, have aſſented unto.

¶ *Then*

¶ *Then ſhall the Biſhop ſay,*

DO ye here in the Preſence of God and of this Congregation, renew the ſolemn Promiſe and Vow that was made in your Name at your Baptiſm; ratifying and confirming the ſame in your own Perſons, and acknowledging yourſelves bound to believe, and to do all thoſe Things which your Godfathers and Godmothers then undertook for you?

¶ *And every one ſhall audibly anſwer,* I do.

The Biſhop.

OUR Help is in the Name of the Lord.

Anſw. Who hath made Heaven and Earth.

Biſhop. *Bleſſed be the Name of the Lord.*

Anſw. Henceforth World without End.

Biſhop. *Lord, hear our Prayers.*

Anſw. And let our Cry come unto thee.

Biſhop.

Let us pray.

ALmighty, and everliving God, who haſt vouchſafed to regenerate theſe thy Servants by Water and the Holy Ghoſt, and haſt given unto them Forgiveneſs of all their Sins: Strengthen them, we beſeech thee, O Lord, with the Holy Ghoſt, the Comforter, and daily increaſe in them thy manifold Gifts of Grace; the Spirit of Wiſdom and Underſtanding;

ſtanding; the Spirit of Counſel and ghoſtly Strength; the Spirit of Knowledge and true Godlineſs; and fill them, O Lord, with the Spirit of thy holy Fear, now and for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *Then all of them in Order kneeling before the Biſhop, he ſhall lay his Hand upon the Head of every one ſeverally, ſaying,*

DEFEND, O Lord, this thy Child [*or this thy Servant*] with thy heavenly Grace, that *he* may continue thine for ever; and daily increaſe in thy Holy Spirit more and more, until *he* come unto thy everlaſting Kingdom. *Amen.*

¶ *Then ſhall the Biſhop ſay,*

The Lord be with you.

Anſw. And with thy Spirit.

¶ *And (all kneeling down) the Biſhop ſhall add,*

Let us pray.

OUR Father, which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, As it is in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Treſpaſſes, As we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into Temptation; But deliver us from Evil. *Amen.*

¶ *And this Collect.*

ALmighty and everlaſting God, who makeſt us both to will and to do thoſe Things that be good and acceptable unto thy divine Majeſty; We make our humble Supplications unto thee for theſe thy Servants,

upon whom (after the Example of thy holy Apoſtles) we have now laid our Hands; to certify them by this Sign, of thy Favour and gracious Goodneſs towards them. Let thy fatherly Hand, we beſeech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and ſo lead them in the Knowledge and Obedience of thy Word, that in the End they may obtain everlaſting Life, through our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who with thee and the Holy Ghoſt liveth and reigneth ever one God, World without End. *Amen.*

O Almighty Lord, and everlaſting God, vouchſafe, we beſeech thee, to direct, ſanctify, and govern both our Hearts and Bodies in the Ways of thy Laws, and in the Works of thy Commandments; that through

thy moſt mighty Protection, both here and ever, we may be preſerved in Body and Soul, through our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt. *Amen.*

¶ *Then the Biſhop ſhall bleſs them, ſaying thus,*

THE Bleſſing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghoſt, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

¶ *And there ſhall none be admitted to the holy Communion, until ſuch Time as he be confirmed, or be ready and deſirous to be confirmed.*

REMEMBER

REMEMBER that you are not to look upon CONFIRMATION as the mere Ceremony of receiving the Biſhop's Bleſſing, but as the engaging yourſelves ſolemnly to perſevere in your holy Faith; and upon the performing of your Part, you may aſſuredly believe that you are "ſealed "by the Holy Spirit of GOD, unto "the Day of your Redemption."

Such as have been once confirmed, ſhould not come to be confirmed again, as the Manner of ſome is, who thereby diſcover their Ignorance of the Nature and Deſign of Confirmation. The neceſſary Work of

Preparation for the Holy Communion is to follow Confirmation. Thoſe who have already renewed their baptiſmal Vows, are to endeavour to carry their Reſolutions to Perfection, by the worthy receiving of the Holy Communion afterwards, and ſo from Time to Time, as Opportunity offers.

It is a dreadful Thing to make Promiſes to Almighty God, and never think of them afterwards.

You are to give up yourſelves to God with all your Hearts, and henceforward, as far as you are able, fully conform your Lives to his holy Goſpel.

And may the great God, who, by his preventing Grace, hath put into

into your Minds good Desires, enable you, by his continual Help, to bring the same to good Effect, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, World without End. *Amen.*

A Prayer

A Prayer before Confirmation, *to be uſed by thoſe that are preparing for it. By Mr.* NELSON.

MOST merciful God, by whoſe gracious Providence I was born of Chriſtian Parents, and early dedicated to thee in holy Baptiſm; make me thoroughly ſenſible, I beſeech thee, of thy infinite Goodneſs, in beſtowing upon me the bleſſed Privileges of being made a Member of thy Church, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Grant, O Lord, that by the Aſſiſtance of thy Grace, I may carefully

fully and zealously perform all those Conditions upon which thou wert pleased to vouchsafe to me such inestimable Benefits: That I may constantly resist the Devil, and all those Temptations by which he seeks to destroy me: That I may renounce all covetous Desires of Honour, Riches, and Pleasure, and all those evil Customs and Maxims of the World, which alienate Men's Minds from the Love of God: That I may mortify the inordinate Appetites of my own corrupt Nature, of my own carnal Mind: That I may believe all thy holy Revelations, and keep thy blessed Will and Commandments all the Days of my Life.

And now, O Lord, that I am about to renew the solemn Vow of my Baptism, and publickly in thy Presence

ſence to ratify all thoſe Things I then promiſed by my Sureties; I humbly beſeech thee to enlighten my Mind with the Knowledge and Underſtanding of that ſolemn Engagement I then made, and am now about to confirm; influence my Will, and all the Faculties of my Soul, heartily and ſincerely to perform it. Let not the many and grievous Sins that I have committed, deprive me of thoſe Aſſiſtances of thy Holy Spirit, which I now expect to receive; but on my true Repentance, let the precious Blood of my Saviour waſh away all my paſt Sins, and grant that I may be enabled to mortify and ſubdue them for the Time to come. And foraſmuch as without thee I am not able to pleaſe thee, pour thy Holy Spirit into my Heart, that by his holy Inſpiration I may think thoſe

Things

Things which are good, and by his merciful Guidance may perform the ſame, through *Jeſus Chriſt* our Lord; in whoſe bleſſed Name and Words I continue to pray, ſaying,

Our Father, &c.

A Prayer after Confirmation, *which may be ſaid while others are confirming, and may be added to the Evening Prayer by the Party confirmed. By Mr.* NELSON.

BLESSED and praiſed be thy holy Name, O Lord, for thoſe freſh Supplies of Grace, which thou haſt been pleaſed to communicate to me.

Bleſſed

Bleſſed be thy Name for thoſe comfortable Aſſurances thou haſt given me of thy Favour and Goodneſs towards me. Bleſſed be thy Name for that Privilege thou haſt now beſtowed upon me, of approaching thy holy Table, and of ſtrengthening and refreſhing my Soul by partaking there of the Body and Blood of *Chriſt*.

Increaſe in me, O Lord, more and more, the Gifts of thy Holy Spirit, that I may be wiſe for Eternity, and make it the chief Buſineſs of my Life to pleaſe thee in all my Actions; that I may love and fear thee above all Things; that I may be juſt and righteous in all my Dealings, and ready to communicate to the Neceſſities of others; that I may keep a conſtant Watch over myſelf, ſo as

not

not to exceed the Bounds of Temperance and Sobriety.

Grant, O Lord, that my corrupt Nature may be daily renewed and purified by thy Holy Spirit; that no Danger or Perſecution may affright me from my Duty; that no Pleaſure may make me careleſs and negligent in the Performance of it; and that, under Afflictions moſt grievous to Fleſh and Blood, I may be entirely reſigned, and ſubmit to thy holy Will and Pleaſure. Let thy Holy Spirit, O Lord, ſo guide and govern me through the whole Courſe of my ſhort Life in this World, that I may not fail to obtain eternal Life in the World to come, through *Jeſus Chriſt* our Lord. *Amen.*

FINIS.

Printed by Bye and Law, St. John's Square, Clerkenwell.